

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending herein with Claims 1, 7, and 13 being independent claims. Claims 7-12 are allowed; Claims 1-4, 6, 13-15, and 17 are rejected; and Claims 15 and 16 are objected to.

35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1-4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,589,824 to Kozlin in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,026,522 to Jackson, et al., and U.S. Patent No. 3,982,851 to Anderson, et al. Kozlin was described as disclosing a turbine blade with a tip cap having a sheet metal with a thickness of 0.050 inches. Jackson was described as teaching the use of an HS-188 sheet material. Anderson was described as teaching a tip cap with a plurality of cooling holes.

The Applicant has amended Claim 1 with the limitations of dependent Claim 2, *i.e.*, the use of six holes. The Examiner stated that the Applicant has not disclosed that the use of six holes solves any stated problem or is used for any particular purpose. The Applicant, however, respectfully directs that Examiner's attention to Paragraph 0027 of the specification:

The combination of the material selection, the thickness of material, the number of cooling holes 110, and the location of the cooling holes 110, individually and collectively, may provide the tip cap 100 herein with improved oxidation and creep resistance. This improved resistance may increase the life of the blade 10 and improved the overall efficiency of the turbine.

Paragraph 0027.

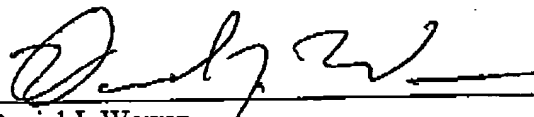
The Applicant thus submits that the selection of six cooling holes does make the invention claimed herein an improvement over the prior art, particularly in combination with the specified material and the specified material thickness. As stated in the specification, the use of the six cooling holes provides the improved oxidation and creep resistance. The Applicant thus submits that the claims are patentable over the cited references. Likewise with respect to the limitations of dependent Claims 3 and 4, the Applicant further submits that the prior art simply does not show the claimed dimensions.

Claims 13-15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kozlin in view of Anderson, et al. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the reason described above with respect to Claim 1. Specifically, Claim 13 recites both the thickness of the sheet material and the specific number of holes. The Applicant thus submits that Claim 13, and the dependent claims thereon, are patentable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant believes that it has responded to each matter raised in the Office Action. Allowance of all claims is respectfully solicited. Any questions may be directed to the undersigned at 404.853.8028.

Respectfully submitted,



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